

Remarks

The Office Action of November 5, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that Claims 1 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1 – 17 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In view of the Examiner’s rejections of the claims, applicant has amended independent

Claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file contain subject matter which is described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The radial interspace has now been defined as a “a hollow region bounded radially by the inner lateral surface of the outer bearing ring and bounded axially by an imaginary plane which is oriented perpendicularly to the bearing axis and extends from the end surface of the outer bearing ring”. This is shown, for example, in Figure 2. Although the exact language now used in Claim 1 to define the interspace is not supported word-for-word in the specification, applicant submits that those skilled in the art would readily understand applicant’s claims based on the originally-filed description, taken in combination with the drawings. However, should the Examiner desire exact word-for-word support to be found in the specification, applicant would be more than happy to amend the specification to include the claim language since it does not introduce new matter as the interspace, as recited in amended Claim 1, is illustrated at least in Figure 2.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 1 – 17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant further submits that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness cited by the Examiner. Therefore, it is respectfully

submitted that the rejection of Claims 1 – 17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant has also enclosed herewith replacement sheets of drawings which replace the original drawings. The replacement sheets contain the same subject matter as the originally-filed drawings, but are cleaner representations. No new matter is added by the replacement sheets.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Fees

No fees other than the \$1300 for the two-month extension of time and the RCE are believed to be due. However, if any fee is determined to be due, authorization is hereby given to charge the fee to deposit account #02-2275. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

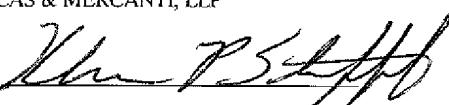
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